June 9, 2004

Commissioner John L. Geesman
Commissioner James D. Boyd
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners Geesman and Boyd:

Southern California Edison (SCE) is pleased to participate in the California Energy Commission's (CEC) study of transmission corridor availability in the Southern California area. In your letter dated April 28, 2004, you requested SCE's participation and assistance in accomplishing this study by providing the Commission staff with the following information:

1. Information on SCE's existing (used and unused) electricity transmission corridors and rights-of-way;
2. Any analysis that SCE has completed that identifies major constraints to corridor or right-of-way expansion, such as environmental impacts and mitigation requirements within SCE's service territory; and
3. SCE's plans for corridor expansion within the study area.

SCE has enclosed copies of siting maps that we believe will be useful in the corridor study. Because of the sensitive information these maps contain, we are enclosing a Confidentiality Agreement.

In addition, you also asked SCE to clarify:

4. What SCE believes the study should achieve.

In response to this question, SCE has taken the liberty of drafting a Proposed Transmission Study Plan for the transmission corridor assessment. This Study Plan is our attempt to articulate a possible approach to corridor planning -- one that is systematic, reasoned, and allows the study results to be of maximum value. Copies of this Study Plan are enclosed for your consideration as you begin this study.

SCE looks forward to working with the CEC on this study. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 441-2369 or Patricia Arons at (626) 302-9644.

Sincerely,

Manuel Alvarez

Enclosures

cc: Kristy Chew
Fernando DeLeon

SCE'S PROPOSED TRANSMISSION CORRIDOR STUDY PLAN
(*for CEC consideration*)

Study Objective

The objective of this study is to identify and adopt transmission corridors for future need, consistent with the provisions of GO 131-D. *Adoption* of transmission corridors allows the California Energy Commission to move towards fulfilling the requirements for construction afforded by GO 131-D.

GO 131-D makes provision for exemptions for construction of new transmission facilities from 50 kV to below 200 kV, when those facilities are

> "*in a utility corridor designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies for which a final Negative Declaration or EIR finds no significant unavoidable environmental impacts.*" (GO 131-D, Section III.B.1.g.)

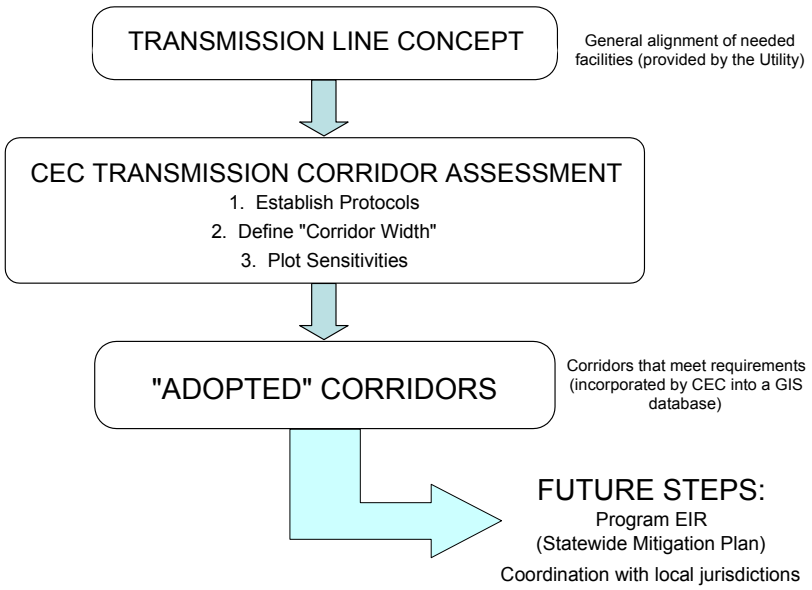
This corridor study will not involve the licensing of specific transmission projects. This study will instead focus on identifying viable transmission "options" in which (a) projects can be constructed, (b) sensitivities can be mitigated, and (c) system reliability can be maintained. At the conclusion of the study, those viable options will be adopted as corridors by the CEC.

Adoption of these corridors will allow the CEC to begin taking the next steps toward fulfilling the *similar* requirements of GO 131-D stated above for application on transmission facilities above 200 kV. These steps include the initiation of a Program EIR, the development of a statewide mitigation plan, and coordination with local jurisdictions to include these adopted corridors into local general plans.

Assumptions

This study will focus on bulk power transmission facilities (those facilities at or above 200 kV as defined in GO 131-D) that are necessary for the interconnection of renewable generation resources in the Southern California region. Lessons learned from this study will be applied to studies of other geographic regions (such as northern California) and for other types of needs (such as service to load, imports, etc.)

Process



1. *Establish protocols*

The first step in the study will be to establish necessary protocols for corridor evaluation. These protocols will define rules and principles (for example, "corridors should avoid common contingencies" or "corridors should avoid cultural and environmental sensitivities") for making assessments of the viability of transmission options.

2. *Define "Corridor Width"*

Corridor width will be defined based on two considerations. First, corridor width will be a size that is appropriate for a Program EIR. Second, corridor width will be sufficient to prevent creating new reliability problems from common contingencies.

3. *Plot Sensitivities*

Using all available data sources, the Commission will plot sensitivities in each area of utility-specified transmission need. Corridors that are found to be both consistent with the identified need and within the protocols described above will be adopted.

Conclusions

Once the study is complete, adopted corridors will be incorporated into an official GIS database. Once corridors are adopted, the CEC can begin to take the next steps towards meeting the requirements of GO 131-D and planning for future transmission need in the state of California.